

Appl. No. 10/681,497

4/4/2008 update to the Amdt. Dated 3/17/2008

Reply of BPAI decision of 1/24/2008

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Amended, Deleted, and New Claims

1. (Currently Amended) In the method for forming lignocellulosic thermoplastic composite products such as to increase their resistance to surface visual impairment caused by mold attack, the improvement which comprises incorporating an amount of a boron-containing fungicide in the range of from about 2 to 12 percent by weight of said composite product prior to forming said composite product.
2. Deleted
9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8 in which said calcium borate is selected from the group consisting of ~~nobleite~~, ~~gowerite~~, ~~hydroboracite~~, ulexite, and colemanite.
10. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~6~~ in which ~~said calcium borate is a synthetic borate.~~ 1 in which said boron-containing fungicide is boric acid.
15. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1 in which said ~~lignocellulosic~~ thermoplastic material is ~~wood~~ polyvinyl chloride.
16. (New) In the method for forming composite products consisting of a thermoplastic material, a lignocellulosic material, and at least one of the group consisting of a lubricant, a cross-linking agent, a UV stabilizer, a blowing agent, an inhibitor, and a coupling agent such as to increase their resistance to surface visual impairment caused by mold attack, the improvement which- consists of incorporating an amount of a boron- containing fungicide selected from the group of zinc borate, synthetic calcium borate, colemanite, ulexite, boric acid, or mixtures thereof in the range of from about 2 to 12 percent by weight of said composite product prior to forming said composite product.

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Appendix A Claims

1. (Currently Amended) In the method for forming lignocellulosic thermoplastic composite products such as to increase their resistance to surface visual impairment caused by mold attack, the improvement which comprises incorporating an amount of a boron-containing fungicide in the range of from about 2 to 12 percent by weight of said composite product prior to forming said composite product.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Original) The method according to claim 1 in which said amount of boron-containing fungicide is in the range of from about 3 to about 5 percent by weight of said composite.
4. (Original) The method according to claim 1 in which said lignocellulosic material is selected from the group consisting of wood, ground rice hulls, kenaf, jute, and coconut shells.
5. (Original) The method according to claim 1 in which said thermoplastic material is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, high-density polyethylene, polystyrene, and polyvinyl chloride.
6. (Original) The method according to claim 1 in which said boron-containing fungicide is calcium borate.
7. (Canceled)
8. (Original) The method according to claim 6 in which said calcium borate is a naturally occurring borate.
9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8 in which said calcium borate

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is selected from the group consisting of ~~nebleite, gowerite, hydroboracite,~~ ulexite and colemanite.

10. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~6 in which said calcium borate is a synthetic borate.~~ 1 in which said boron-containing fungicide is boric acid.

11. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 1 in which said boron-containing fungicide is selected from a group consisting of zinc borate, calcium borate, boric acid, or mixtures thereof.

12. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 8 in which said calcium borate is colemanite.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 1 in which said boron-containing fungicide is zinc borate.

15. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1 in which said ~~lignocellulosic~~ thermoplastic material is wood polyvinyl chloride.

16. (New) In the method for forming composite products consisting of a thermoplastic material, a lignocellulosic material, and at least one of the group consisting of a lubricant, a cross-linking agent, a UV stabilizer, a blowing agent, an inhibitor, and a coupling agent such as to increase their resistance to surface visual impairment caused by mold attack, the improvement which consists of incorporating an amount of a boron-containing fungicide selected from the group of zinc borate, synthetic calcium borate, colemanite, ulexite, boric acid, or mixtures thereof in the range of from about 2 to 12 percent by weight of said composite product prior to forming said composite product.